



BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

BUILDING SERVICES



The following information is based on the requirements for barriers set forth in the 2016 California Building Code.

The following safety features are required whenever a building permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa. It shall be equipped with at least one of the following seven drowning prevention features to protect the residence. **An approved barrier shall still be required for protection of the area beyond the property, e.g. neighborhood.**

Required to have at least one of items 1-7

1. The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets the requirements listed in items 8-12 of this form.
2. The pool shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.
3. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specification F 1346.
4. The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.
5. All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.
6. Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. These pool alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F 2208 "Standards Specification for Pool Alarms" which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser and infrared type alarms. For the purposes of this article, "swimming pool alarms" shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.
7. Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the devices set forth in items 1-4, and have been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those devices established by the ASTM or the American Society of Testing Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Items 8-12 Required

8. Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool and are self-closing with a self-latching device place no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
9. A minimum height of 60 inches.
10. A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches.
11. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
12. An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics that would serve a handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.